



IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22 line 11, extending to page 23, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As mentioned above, in the present embodiment, parts constituting the path along which a supplied transfer material is subjected to a transfer process, a fixation process and an eject process are incorporated into a single conveyance unit 12, and also the entire unit from the transfer device 26 to the upward conveyance part 30 is configured to be drawable from the front side of the apparatus body of the image forming apparatus. Thus, when a maintenance operation is needed or when paper jam occurs, the maintenance operation or an operation to remove jammed papers can be performed in a state where the conveyance unit 12 is drawn from the front side of the main body of the image forming apparatus 1, which greatly improves workability of the operations. It should be noted that, although not illustrated, the photoconductor 21, the electric charger 22, the development device 24 and the cleaning device 27 may be accommodated in a single unit so as to constitute an image forming unit so that the unit can be drawn from the front side of the main body of the image forming apparatus. In such a case, the workability of operations can be further improved.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 23, extending to page 26, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a strength analysis of the front-side late frame having the structure shown in FIGS. 1 and 3 using a computer simulation, it was confirmed that a large stress concentration occurs in an area near the base of the protruding part (a hatched area A in FIG. 3) of the front-side plate frame 11 when a force is applied to the front-side plate frame 11 in a lateral direction (the direction indicated by the arrow F2 in FIG. 3) or from directly above (a

direction indicated by an arrow F3 in FIG. 3). Since the area near the base of the protruding part of the front-side plate frame 11 is a part for receiving a load applied to the paper eject tray 4a of the internal paper eject part 4, it causes a damage of the paper eject tray if a strength of this part is small.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Accordingly, in the present embodiment, a reinforcing member is provided in the area near the base of the protruding part (the hatched area A in FIG. 3) of the front-side plate frame 11 where a stress is concentrated. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 5, a reinforcing plate (bracket) 15 of an L-shape is attached to the base of the protruding part of the front-side plate frame 11 and fixed by screws or welding. Thus, in the present embodiment, the base of the protruding part, into which a stress tends to be concentrated when a load is applied to the front-side plate frame 11, is especially reinforced, an efficient reinforcing effect can be obtained.